A DEATH SHOCK IN A DARK VAULT.

Electrician Morris Ball Handled a Live Wire and Was Instantly Killed.

Volunteered to Aid the Man Sent to Repair a Defective Connection and Was Careless.

While Lineman Was Putting on Rubber Gloves Ball Picked Up the Wire.

WAS DEAD IN THE SAME SECOND.

The One Cry, "Ida," Escaped His Lips Before He Fell, and Led, Through Letters in His Pocket, to His Identification. Body Removed to the Morgue.

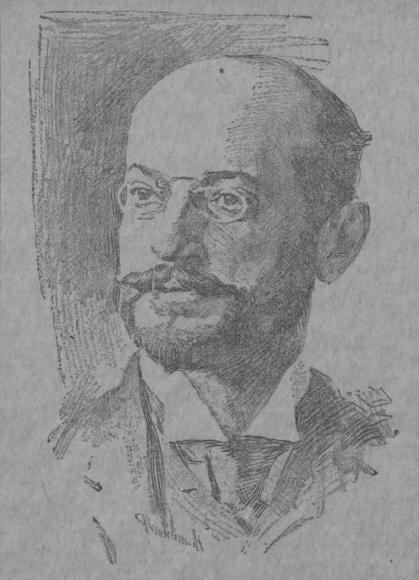
Morris Balls, an electrician, was killed by electricity at dusk yesterday in a damp and dismal cellar under a salcon. He died so quickly that he had time only to murmur the name "Ida" before death claimed him. There is an added pathos to Balls's sudden taking off, because he vol-unfecred to risk his life when, as he thought, the lives of others were endangered. "Ida," and this much of her name is only known, because of letters to the dead electrician, found in his pocket, lives somewhere in Brooklyn.

Up to within a few weeks ago Ball was in the employ of Ward & Scott, electric elevator builders, at No. 423 East Tweifth street. He left the employ of Ward & Scott to go with a contractor who is now doing a big job on a building on Twenty-ninth street, near Broadway. Yesterday's storm interfered with th electric work on the building and Ball knocked off early. He was on his way down Third avenue,

PNEUMATIC SYSTEM PRAISED. Experts Find That It Works Successfully on the Monitor Terror.

Landed in Jail. 0400 negro porter employed on the uptown elevated station at Greenwich and Christopher streets. The porter was Robert Wilther spreads. The porter was about 18, of No. 447 West Twenty-seventh street, willis was talking with William Buchanan, f No. 5 Lawrence street, when Early came onto n the platform. He was very drunk. Without saying a word he drew a large receiver from his coat pocket and pressed it

t agent inducer Early to put the cay. The drunken man drew the second time and again terrorized The latter lodged a complaint



DANIEL FROHMAN, PRESS CENSOR.

Mr. Daniel Frohman, whose portrait tops these admiring lines, though already well when, approaching the northwest corner of known as a theatrical manager, hungers for a larger fame as censor of the press-Eighteenth street and Third avenue, he as the American Weyler, indeed. In furtherance of this modest aspiration, Captainsaw a crowd on the corner outside of General Frohman turned away from the doors of his Lyceum Theatre on Monday Dahnke & Bros.' Ilquor store. The crowd evening a gentleman, holding purchased tickets, and with a lady on his arm. The kept a respectful distance from an aper- gentleman was Alan Dale, the Journal's critic, who had ventured to publish his judgture between the corner building and the ment of a play without first submitting the manuscript for inspection and correction one adjoining it. From the opening, intermittently flashed staying away from the play, which was withdrawn after a few disastrous nights, but a bright bine and white blaze, which con-nated from a heavy electric light wire. that circumstance, instead of moderating the censor's displeasure, seemed but to aug-nated from a heavy electric light wire.

The wire fed a large are lamp suspended over the corner entrance to Dahnke & Frohman's assumption of power to dictate what shall not be said.

Frohman's assumption of power to dictate what shall and what shall not be said. Bros.' liquor store. Some one in the crowd in print of the plays which he offers for the public's entertainment, but it is not was on the point of sending in an ajarm impossible that hundreds of theatrical managers throughout the country—managers to the Fire Department when Ball went who feel that their right to deal exclusively in the Gold Brick Drama is sacred-will forward and endeavored to detach the dan-gerous wires.

| Application of the dan-gerous wires. | Frohman is the leader in a mighty movement for the liberation of the theatre from

for falsely advertised, fraudulent stuff on the singe, who will not sympathize with thes the stand which Mr. Frohman, of the Lyceum, has taken toward that enemy of all

rogues, the honest writer. But Mr. Frohman, it is to be feared, will not find the censor's crown with which he has endowed himself less free from pricks than are the crowns of other monarchs. And it is the invariable fate of ploneers of great movements to suffer under misapprehension, even obloquy.

There will not be wanting those to say that Manager Frohman has a head quite the fingers of which stick out of his controle, chieved the vault, saying, "Let me see what I can do." In the was a blinding fiash as Ball stepped into the vault, and the saloon keeper and Campbell moved further away. Hall reached forward to take hold of the wires. Campbell shouted a warning, but Hall reforted with a light remark. He had replaced the cutting alppers in his pocket. And with his naked hand he deliberately clutched the dangling wire. He was killed on the spot.

Dahnke and Campbell dragged the corpse out of the vault into the celler Policeman James Baker was notried and called for an ambulance. Dr. Scott, from Bellevue Hospital, pronounced that the electrician was beyond help. He had been instantly killed. Ball was twenty-eight years, old, and his fellow workmen speak highly of him. The body was removed to the morgue.

There will not be wanting those to say that he hardest whack of the cudgel its dull imponence has earned; that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the press and the public that he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relations with the less qualified to be the manager of a theatre than canned the press and the public bate he is an ass so incapable of understanding his true relatio

"A JOLLY BUT RATHER PITIFUL ASS."

BY ALAN DALE.

There is one theatrical manager in town who lives in such quivering, bastering Washington, Dec. 16.—The pneumatic system in the navy is pronounced a success by a board of experts assigned to conduct an inquiry into the devices of the menitor Tetror. For a long time there has been more or less controversy regarding the merit of the pneumatic apparatus, which has taken the place of compared to the press. Good evening."

The Monitor 16:10.

The pneumatic system of the dramatic criticisms that it is my privilege to write for the New York to bound the presented cowardice, he decided to try the generally futile policy of silencing the press. On Monday night I bought two tickets for the new bill at the Lyceum, and with a lady presented myself as usual at the gate for admittance, Mr. Frohman was prepared for this emergency. No sconer had he spotted methan a courtly "bouncer" stepped forward a la Billy McGlory, and, bowing amiably, remarked: "You will not be permitted to enter the theatre; this is Mr.

Frohman's orders. Good evening." fear of the dramatic criticisms that it is my privilege to write for the New York

merit of the pneumatic apparatus, which has taken the place of steam and electricity in the operation of guns, turrets and carriages and the steering gear of the coast defenders.

A crowd of people stood around, staring in frenzied perplexity, I decided not to argue, but merely protested that \$4 had been expended on my brace of seats. "Read your tickets," said Mr. Frohman's bouncer, and I read: "This ticket on its

The Board has submitted to the Navy Department an account of its observations on board the Terror. It is found that the system works satisfactorily in the turning of turrets, the raising and lowering of the guns and the operation of the mounts. The Board especially commands the steering gear of the ship and suggests that the advantages of the pneumatic system as applied to such devices on board the Terror might with profit be extended to other ships of Leonie, and I read: "This ticket on its date is a personal license to enter the theatre, not transferable, and is revokable; if evoked, the holder must leave the theatre."

And the band played on.

Here is the pill that is sticking in the Frohman gizzard. It is a matter for the public to digest and to marvel at. On No vember 24 a new play, called "The Courtship of Leonie," was produced at the Lyce um Theatre by a number of actors and account of the pheumatic system as applied to such devices on board the Terror market when the produced at the Lyce um the stresses organized for the new Lyceum stock company. I saw that play. I have seen many bad plays at the Lyceum, but nothing to equal "The Courtship of Leonie" in point of jejuniority and imbecility. Moreover, it was so indifferently acted that I could not help asking myself how Mr. Frohman had the audacity to present such an affair to a public that had always expected and generally received treatment that service: affair to a public that had always expected and generally received treatment that

cept this as almost a formal adoption of the method by the naval service, and it may result in that, at least so far as the coast lefemes ships are concerned. The Secretary has not yet acted upon the Board's constitute of the public deceive my employer and gloss over this fall-that has not yet acted upon the Board's constitute. It is so much more agreeable to be pleasant. But I did as I have ever done. I THREATENED AN "L" PORTER. told the truth. The criticism that was published in the Journal informed the public of the precise condition of things that might be expected at the Lyceum. Other Charles Early, Too Free with His Pistol, "Too Fr lightly," as they put it. The public was left in the dark, and I have always found

Charles S, Early, an engineer residing at that the public loathes the dark.

Well, what happened? "The Courtship of Leonie" apparently failed dismally. Sunmit, N. J., was locked up in the Charles Street Station yesterday for pointing a loaded revolver at the head of a because he knew that it was correct. He was furious—not at any untruth—but at because he knew that it was correct. He was furious—not at any untruth—but at the truth, the truth, and nothing but the truth. If I could show him the mass of correspondence in my mail that gratefully acknowledges my veracity, he would believe that the public wants the truth. Perhaps he does believe it. But he says, "the public sha'n't have it if I can prevent it."

The result was the contretemps, amusl ng yet exasperating, that I have described

Now, my idea is this: Let the managers club together and let them select a writer and suggest to the various newspaper proprietors of this city that he write all the criticisms for all the papers. Let his manuscript be submitted to the managers, so that they can strike out any words that will conflict with their interests; let him avoid any unpleasant comment; let everything be a "success"—a "howling success," a "distinguished and emphatic success"—let (as public learn to consider such "criticisms" as paid theatrical advertisements. Let the public be informed that there is not a word of genuine truth in such utterances. Please the managers first-that is the essential thing. That is what we are all here for. That is why newspapers are run. The managers must be placed on good terms with themselves, or the ethics

fice boys of journalism write the dramatic criticisms, and let the managers "settle" them by little tips, graciously administered, or fill them up with champagne. There

much virtue in champagne. Many managers swear by it. Something must be done. However, I may as well say that I shall continue to go to the theatres until further notice; that I shall tell the truth, and nothing but the truth; that I decline to be buildozed; that I refuse all taffy, and that I acknow edge my duty to the public and to the proprietor of the Journal only. Mr. Frohman has written himself down as a jolly, but rather pitiful ass, and if he doesn't mind it-well, why should we? A theatrical manager who says-as Mr. Frohman says-"You can't come into my theatre and give my plays bad notices," is rather enter-faining in this moribund 1806. Don't you think so? The ne'r thing he will do is to oust from his house those patrons who fall to applaud. If he had done this with "The Courtship of Leonie" nobody would have remained but the ushers.

AT WAR OVER SPOFFORD. PROMOTIONS FOR POLICE.

Quigg, of New York, Introduces a Bill Which One New Captain Made and Eight Rounds-Will Have the Effect of Legislating the Librarian of Congress Out of Office.

Washington. Dec. 16.—Whether or not Librarian Spofford shall continue at the head of the Congressional Library when it is finally located in its beautiful new home is the question that has caused the special committee on library to set its lance in rest against the Appropriations (Committee and to design against the age could easily be enforced. Committee, and to declare against the action of this committee.

After the acgular meetical actions and the account of the acc

FOR MORE SCHOOL SITES.

Board of Education Receives a Favorable Report—Other Minor Business.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at No. 146 Grand street yesterday. Commissioner Prentiss read a communication from the Secretary of the State Board to the effect that the Civil Service Board had no control over the approximations of McKinley and Among the military of ganizations expected are the Twenty-sec yesterday. Commissioner Prentiss read a communication from the Secretary of the State Board to the effect that the Civil Service Board had no control over the approximation of McKinley and Indian the Indian of McKinley and Indian of McKinley and Indian the Indian of McKinley and pointment of principals and instructors Commissioners Agar and Strauss took exception to this and the matter was referred to the Corporation Counsel for an opinion. The Committee on Buildings reported favorably to the purchase of several new school sites, among them being the plots on Ninetleth street through to Ninety-free street, near Amsterdam avenue; One Hundred and Thirty-third street, running through to One Hundred and Thirty-fourth street, near English avenue, and on One Hundred and Eighth street, running through to One Hundred and Ninth street, near Second avenue. Commissioners Agar and Strauss took ex-

FIGHT FOR THE PENSION PLUM. SEIPERT.-On Wednesday, December 18, New York State Has Two Avowed Candidates for the Commissionership.

Washington, Dec. 16.-The members of the New York delegation in the House are Fineral pilvate. Interment in Macon, Ga. greatly interested in a lively contest now going on for their indorsements for the appointment of Commissioner of Pensions under the incoming Administration. The pohas the comfortable salary of \$5,000 tannum attached.

In there are two awowed candidates a New York in the field. The most action of the salary of \$5,000 tannum attached.

So one dozen boxes, of Allen's Foot-cares thirding, Cold Feet, Corps and Bonions, All Druggisth, 25c. Sample Free, Address Allen S. Olmsted, E. Roy, N. Y.

Harrison Administration.

The New Yorkers will find opposition from other States of a decidedly formidable character. Representative Pickler, of South Dakota, is an active candidate, and will be in the contest to the end. Representative Thomas, of Michigan, also has an eyo on the place, and it is said that Representative Riecker, of Hilmols, will be urged by the Republicans of the Prairie State.

HE DUG UP HUMAN BONES. They May Have Once Belonged to Some Revolutionary Soldier.

While Salvino Merinno was working or the new reservoir near Jerome Park yesterday he dug up a lot of human bones. The sight so unnerved him that he refused to do any more digging, and in this he was supported by a lot of his countrymen.

The foreman picked up the bones and had them carried to the Kingsbridge Station, where they were put together, and it was seen that they once belonged to a full-grown man. The police think they age the remains of some soldier who fell during the Revolutionary war.

Gold Watches Free.

One of our famous Ulsters made from American and Irish Frieze, Shetlands, Laplands, and Montage.

Dead Man Came from St. Louis.

PIANOS

World Renowned, in New Artistic Styles,

Also Fine Assortment of Slightly Used KNABE Grands and Uprights Fatty Warranted, at a Liberal Reduction from Original Price. A Rare Opportunity to Secure Piano of Standard Maker at Special Price.

148 Fifth Avenue, CORNER 20TH STREET.

Special Sale for the Holidays, not the cheap kind ordinarily sold at dry goods stores, but best a quality made-Smyrna.

9 ft.x12 ft.....\$29.00 6 ft.x 9 ft..... \$13.50 ACADEMY OF MI 86 in.x72 in..... \$3.75

day, besides dismissing several policerien After the aegular meeting the Board went

A number of the older Senators and Representatives have laid up a great store of affection for Spofford, and are willing to forget that on the President's desk lies a report from a Treasury auditor recom-

men Gecome Sergeants.

At the meeting of the Police Board yester-

ERICSSON AT THE NAVY YARD. Torpedo Boat Leaves Burtis's Dry Dock,

Where She Went After the Accident. badly damaged when the calsson of the timber dock broke away in August inst, and from the lack of decking facilities at the navy yard was taken to Burtis's dry doel will to be repaired, was brought back to th navy yard yesterday. Most of the damager have been repaired, but it will be sometime before the vessel will be ready for service, as a new torpedo tube will have to be put in place.

The vessel is now field up alongside the ram Alarm in Whitney Basin.

Soldiers Galore for March 4. Washington, Dec. 16.-The military play at the inauguration of McKinley

THE WEATHER.

The indications for to-day are fair and

Special Dotices.

EXCLUDE THE COLD; USE ROBBUCK'S Weather Strips on doors and windows; for sale or applied by Roebuck 172 Fulton st. New York, and 44th st. and Hamilton ave., Brooklyn. E. & W. W. MRIMBE. E. & W. MRINGERS OF THE ROBBUCK'S WINDOWS OF THE ROBBUCK'S WINDOWS STRIPS OF THE ROBBUCK'S WINDOWS STRIPS OF THE ROBBUCK'S STRIPS OF

1896, Albert E. Seifert, the secretary of the Lager Beer Brewers' Board of Trade of New York and Vicinity and of the Brevers

Business Potices.



Shetlands, Laplands, and Montag- B L | Z nacs can be yours for \$15, \$18, \$20, Upon searching the clothing of the unknown searching the clothing of the unknown \$22, \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40 or \$45, ton found dead in Pearl street on Thesday in found dead in Pearl street on Thesday in found dead in Pearl street on Thesday gether with a handsome Gold in the employees at the Morgue yearchay and several articles that may lead to his idea-cention, time was a book of by-laws of a breve seelety in St. Leuis. The book is printing in Hebrew, and on one of the blank pages a written. "Philip Brooden. St. Louis," and Lithendahl, president." Other triteles and are a printed statement used in the ship-out of cattle by refiredes, upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes, upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes, upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes, upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes, upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes upon which is the out of cattle by refiredes upon which is the same gift with any purchase of Clothing, Mackintoshes, Umbrelles. Men's Furnishings, Smoking gether with a handsome Gold Has Driven All the Doctors in Town to Driven Plated, Stem Winding and Setting HOYT'S near Bway. THEATRE. las, Men's Furnishings, Smoking THE ROGUE'S COMEDY.

Jackets, House Robes, Bath Robes, Next week, The Middleman & Prof.'s Love Story. las, Men's Furnishings, Smoking Hats, Shoes, Bicycle and Athletic goods, etc., etc., amounting to or exceeding \$15. Merchandise and Watches guar-

Raymondelo NASSAL AND FIRTON STE

Religious Motices.

D. L. MOODY.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Address to women at 3 o'clock. Admes 8 o'clock. Admes 18 o'clock. Admessing W. E. 40 East 23d st. or by addressing W. E.

(Other sizes in proportion.)

ARPETS from our ewn mills at lowest maker's prices.

2 EAST MITH ST.

Open Evenings Until Christmas with a Grand Stock of Men's and Boys' Clothing. THE HERALD SQ. THEATRE \$16, \$18, \$20.

Ready-made, \$10, \$12, \$15. Ladies' Cloaks, Suits, Furs. orth Rogiment From Mischer South and Souvenir Night. The torpedo boat Eriesson, which was Watches, Chains, Diamonds, Etc.

Weekly or Monthly Payments.

775 - 777 Broadway,

EXCESSIVE unpleased ense. JOHN H. WOODRIEV, 127

Personal.

THILL'S RHEUMATISM AND GOUT CURE; reatest of remedies; one bottle cures you. HILL MEDICINE CO., 3d East 19th st., New York My. Send for circular,

Amusements.

KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE. THE GREAT SUCCESS

next week, including XMAS MATINEE. PASTOR'S

TRILBY

DALY'S Evenings 8:15.

MISS REHAN AS LADY TEAZLE. MURRAY HILL THEATRE. Lex. ave. and 42d st. ANDREW MACK IN MYDES AROON. 23c. Mats. Wed. and Sat. Next Week-McKee Bankin in True to Life

Koster & Bial's. Yvette Guilbert.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' FAIR.

Madison | NOW OPEN, 11 a. m. to 11 p m. Samare Streets of Cairo, Moulin Rouge STAR, BROADWAY, NEAR 14TH ST

BROTHER FOR BROTHER. THE LILIPUTIANS

their MERRY TRAMPS.

MY FRIEND FROM INDIA

WALLACKS 2 MATTNEES, 9 NIGHTS. WILLARD

GARRICK THEATRE, Sth et. near SECRET SERVICE. WM. GHARTER.

Evenings at 8:15, Matinee Saturday,
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Mat. Saturday, Peter F. Dailey IN A Good Thing NEXT Parsons Hanton Bros. SUPERBLAND MONDAY Party Spectrate.
Handsome Presents to the Children Each Mat. ARDEN THEATRE, 27th st. & Madison ave.

MR. RICHARD MANSFIELD

WHEN LONDON SLEEPS.

EDEN MUSEE

LITTLE VAGRANTS

SPECIAL. FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD,

Empire Theatre, and 40th at

JOHN DREW MATINEES WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

MATINEES WED, AND SAT. AT 2.
RICE'S GIRL 200 NIGHTS
GIRLAT GIRL STILL THESE

OLYMPIA TH MUSIC HALL.

Bet. 9th & 10th Sts. Opposite Wanamaker's. WINTER GARDEN BAL CHAMPETRE, 11 P.M. AMERICAN, Marinee Saturday

TONIGHT CLEOPATRA, LA TONICA, MEXT MONDAY A MAN OF HONOR. 5.WE THEATRE. See Mat 8736 B. CRANE LAST THREE WEEKS OF AND HIS ADMIRABLE OF PORTUNE

CASINO S:15 P. M. Wed, & Sat. Mats. 2:15 MONDAY. JACK AND BEANSTALK

WEBER & FIELDS' B'dway Minde Hall. Russell Bros. and the languable GEEZER Bessle Bonchill, McAvoy & May, Staley & Bi BIJOU THEATRE B'way and both st. THE GAY MR. LIGHTFOOT.

KEITH'S Continuous Performance. PLORENZ TROUPE, M'INTYRE A HEATH, ADELE PUBVIS ONE, FOREMAN & WEST, REDDING & STANTON, 40 others. HARLEM OPERA EMPIRE THEATRE "BOHEMIA

Frank B. Carr's ED AVE THEATRE, WOOD SISTERS' ENTRAVAGANZA OO, ADGIE AND HER TRAINED BIONS.
Prices 10c., 20c., 30c., Marinee Every Day, COLUMBUS Ev's 8:15. Wed. & Sat. Mat. 2. Pop., price. Wed. Mat. 25 & 50c. THEATRE. Mr. and Mrs. Russ Wayral in Next Week-Pallen among Thienra.

LYCEUM At 8:15, Mais, Thurs, & Set.
THE LATE MM, GASTELLO
Preceded by The Wife or Wiloughby.

14TH ST. THEATRE, n. 6th ave. Nights 3:16.
Good reserved wests, 5te. Mats. West, and Set.
THE CHEBRY PICKERS. THREE BROADWAY STORES:

At Prince. At Warren. At Thirty-second When of a night Winter steals in and wraps

us in her mantle, she catches many unawares. We can save you money; can save you the tailor's vexations delays; can give you readyto-wear all they can give, in spite of the time and money they demand.

Overcoats and Ulsters. Don't run to keep

warm, our "great coat" makes freezing difficult. A combination overcoat and ulster, with the elegance of one and all the warmth of the other-

Ulsters as ordinarily made-from \$16; over-

coals from \$11.

As exceptional opportunity offers to-day.

Umbrellas with handles of ivery and bone; some beautifully carved, some with sterling silver trimmings.

Usual prices \$5 to \$12. Your choice at \$3.85.

ROGERS, PEET & CO.